

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A program product stored in a computer readable medium that ~~permits a computer to implement~~ when executed in a computer, implements the following steps of:

a specification analysis step of analyzing a specification, so as to obtain a number of words for preferred embodiment and a number of words of claims;

a patent value calculation step of calculating a patent value using the following formula:

{the number of words for preferred embodiment/the number of words for claims}; and

a patent value output step of outputting said patent value.

4. (Currently amended) A program product stored in a computer readable medium that ~~permits a computer to implement~~ when executed in a computer, implements the following steps of:

an element obtaining step of obtaining elements based on a specific letter string in a specification;

a specification analysis step of analyzing said specification so as to obtain the smallest number of elements composing one claim;

a patent value calculation step of calculating a patent value using the smallest number of the elements composing one claim obtained by the specification analysis step, as a parameter; and

a patent value output step of outputting said patent value.

5. (Currently amended) A program product stored in a computer readable medium that ~~permits a computer to implement~~ when executed in a computer, implements the following steps of:

a parent claim number obtainment step of obtaining a parent claim number of each of claims;

a parent-dependent relationship information obtainment step of obtaining information of parent-dependent relationships between the claims; ~~claims~~

a claim hierarchy obtainment step of obtaining a claim hierarchy that relates the claim number and the parent claim number;

a nesting level obtainment step of obtaining a nesting level that is the deepest level of the claim hierarchy;

a patent value calculation step of calculating a patent value using the nesting level as a parameter so that the deeper the nesting level the higher the patent value; and

a patent value output step of outputting said patent value.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A data processing device comprising:

a microprocessor unit ~~MPU~~ including a specification analyzer for analyzing a specification and a patent value calculator for calculating a patent value based on the following formula:

{a number of words for preferred embodiment/number of words for claims}; and

a printer or a display for outputting said patent value.

9. (Currently amended) A data processing device comprising:

a microprocessor unit ~~MPU~~ including an element obtaining means for obtaining elements based on a specific letter string, a specification analyzer for analyzing a specification so as to obtain a smallest number of elements composing one claim and a patent value calculator for calculating a patent value using the smallest number of elements composing one claim obtained in the specification analyzer, as a parameter; and

a printer or display for outputting said patent value.

10. (Currently amended) A data processing device comprising:

a parent claim number obtainment means for obtaining ~~unit which obtains~~ a parent claim number of each of claims;

a parent-dependent relationship information obtainment means for obtaining ~~unit which obtains~~ information of parent-dependent relationships between the claims; ~~claims~~

a claim hierarchy obtainment means for obtaining ~~unit which obtains~~ a claim hierarchy that relates the claim number and the parent claim number;

a nesting level obtainment means for obtaining ~~which obtains~~ a nesting level that is the deepest level of the claim hierarchy;

a patent value calculator means for calculating a patent value using the nesting level as a parameter so that the deeper the nesting level the higher the patent value; and

a patent value output means for outputting said patent value.

11. (Previously presented) A method implemented by a computer comprising the following steps of:

a specification analysis step of analyzing a specification in the computer, so as to obtain a number of words for preferred embodiment and a number of words of claims;

a patent value calculation step of calculating a patent value using the following formula in the computer:

{the number of words for preferred embodiment/the number of words for claims}; and

a patent value output step of outputting said patent value.

12. (Previously presented) A method implemented by a computer comprising the following steps of:

an element obtaining step of obtaining element based on a specific letter string by the computer;

a specification analysis step of analyzing a specification by the computer so as to obtain the smallest number of elements composing one claim;

a patent value calculation step of calculating a patent value using the smallest number of elements composing one claim obtained in the specification analysis step carried out in the computer, as a parameter; and

a patent value output step of outputting said patent value from the computer.

13. (Currently amended) A method implemented by a computer comprising the following steps of:

a parent claim number obtainment step of obtaining a parent claim number of each of claims;

a parent-dependent relationship information obtainment step of obtaining information of parent-dependent relationships between the claims; ~~claims~~

a claim hierarchy obtainment step of obtaining a claim hierarchy that relates the claim number and the parent claim number;

a nesting level obtainment step of obtaining a nesting level that is the deepest level of the claim hierarchy;

a patent value calculation step of calculating a patent value using the nesting level as a parameter so that the deeper the nesting level the higher the patent value, a microprocessor unit performing said patent value calculation step; and

a patent value output step of outputting said patent value from the computer.

14-16. (Canceled)